

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) A device for cutting sanitary containers, in particular sacks, bags, and/or pouches for stomas, said device (1) comprising: a structure (2) having at least a housing portion (3) adapted to receive in engagement at least a sanitary collection container to be cut; cutting means (13) operatively associated to said structure (2) and active at said housing portion (3) to cut at least a structural portion of said sanitary container about a predetermined reference point and according to a closed cutting line, characterised in that it further comprises adjustment means (17) operatively associated to said cutting means (13) to determine the amplitude of the structural portion to be removed from said sanitary container along a at least a predetermined direction.

2. (original) A device as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that said structure (2) comprises: a substantially cylindrical grip portion (7); a cutting plate (4) engaged to one end (7a) of said grip portion (7), said cutting plate (4) extending prevalently on a plane that is substantially perpendicular to the axial development of said grip portion (7).

3. (currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 1 [[or 2]], characterised in that said cutting plate (4) is provided with a bearing surface (4a) facing said cutting means (13) and having at least a through opening (4b) that is coaxial relative to the grip portion (7), said bearing surface (4a) of

said cutting plate (4) defining said housing portion (3) of said structure (2).

4. (original) A device as claimed in claim 3, characterised in that said bearing surface (4a) is provided with a plurality of cutting grooves (4c) co-operating with said cutting means (13) to assure the cutting of the structural portion of said sanitary container, each cutting groove 4c developing around the predetermined reference point substantially parallel relative to each other and according to a substantially circular development line.

5. (currently amended) A device as claimed in ~~any of the claims from 2 through 4~~ claim 2, characterised in that said cutting plate (4) and said grip portion (7) are joined in a single piece.

6. (currently amended) A device as claimed in ~~one or more of the claims 1 through 5~~ claim 1, characterised in that it further comprises at least an additional cutting plate (10) able to be associated to said cutting plate (4) by means of the engagement of the bearing surface (4a) thereof, said additional cutting plate (10) having a bearing surface (10a) defining said housing portion (3) of said structure (2).

7. (original) A device as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that said bearing surface (10a) of said additional cutting plate (10) is provided with a plurality of cutting grooves co-operating with said cutting means (13) to assure the cutting of the structural portion of said sanitary container, each cutting groove developing around the predetermined reference point substantially parallel to each other and according to a substantially elliptical development line.

8. (currently amended) A device as claimed in ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that said cutting means (13) comprise: at least a support rod (14) operatively engaged to said structure (2) of said device (1), said support rod (14) developing substantially parallel relative to said cutting plate (4,10) and being movable between an operative position, in which it is situated near said cutting plate (4,10), and a non operative position, in which it is distanced from said cutting plate (4,10) ; at least a cutting element (15) operatively associated to said support rod (14), said cutting element (15) engaging a respective cutting groove (4c, of said cutting plate (4, 10) when the support rod (14) is situated in the operative position, and disengaging said cutting plate (4,10), when the support rod (14) is in non operative position.

9. (original) A device as claimed in claim 8, characterised in that said support rod (14) rotatably engages the structure (2) of said device (1) by means of an attachment end (14a) fastened to said cutting plate (4,10), at the predetermined reference point, which is located along the geometric axis of said grip portion (7) so that said support rod (14) and said cutting element (15) are free to rotate integrally around said axis and the reference point itself.

10. (currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 8 [[or 9]], characterised in that said cutting means (13) further comprise a substantially cylindrical actuation pivot (16), rotatably engaged in the grip portion (7) and free to slide axially along said portion to drive the support rod (14) integrally with said cutting element (15) between the operative position and the non operative position, said actuation pivot rigidly engaging the attachment end (14) of said support rod (14) and extending according to a greater

measure than the axial development of said grip portion (7) so it projects therefrom both at said cutting plate (4,10) and at the opposite side therefrom.

11. (currently amended) A device as claimed in ~~one or more of the claims from 8 to 10~~ claim 8, characterised in that said actuation pivot (16) and said support rod (14) are orthogonally joined in a single piece to constitute a single support element for the cutting element (15).

12. (currently amended) A device as claimed in ~~one or more of the claims from 8 to 11~~ claim 8, characterised in that it further comprises elastic thrust means (27) operatively associated to said cutting means (13) to move said support rod (14) and said cutting element from the non operative position to the operative position.

13. (currently amended) A device as claimed in ~~one or more of the claims from 8 to 12~~ claim 8, characterised in that said means (17) for adjusting said cutting means (13) comprise at least one cursor (18) operatively engaged to said support rod (14), said cursor (18) being translatable along said support rod (14) between a position of minimum amplitude in which the cursor is positioned near the predetermined reference point, and a position of maximum amplitude, in which the cursor (18) is positioned distant from the predetermined reference point in correspondence with a free end (14b) of said support rod (14), opposite to the attachment end (14a).

14. (original) A device as claimed in claim 13, characterised in that said adjustment means (17) further comprise a sliding guide (19) to guide said cursor (18) between the positions of minimum and maximum amplitude, said

sliding guide (19) being associated to said support rod (14) of said cutting means (13).

15. (original) A device as claimed in claim 14, characterised in that said sliding guide (19) is obtained directly on the structure of said support rod (14) and is defined by a through opening (20) having a contour that is substantially similar to the contour of said support rod (14), said through opening defining, on said support rod (14), a first arresting edge (19a), positioned in correspondence with said actuation pivot (16), a pair of sliding tracks (19c) extending parallel to each other along the development of said support rod (14) and a second arresting edge (19b), opposite the first, and positioned in correspondence with the free end (14b) of said support rod (14).

16. (currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 14 [[or 15]], characterised in that said cursor (18) comprises: a sliding portion (21) operatively engaged to said sliding guide (19) to assure the ability of said cursor to slide between the positions of minimum and maximum amplitude, a portion (22) for supporting said cutting element (15), removably engaged to said sliding portion ; connecting and locking means (23) operatively associated to said sliding (21) and support (22) portions to lock said cursor (18) on said sliding guide (19) in a predetermined position.

17. (original) A device as claimed in claim 16, characterised in that said sliding portion has: a substantially parallelepiped body wherefrom extends an engagement element (21b) able to be inserted into the through opening (20) of said support rod (14) defining said sliding guide (19), said engagement element (21b) defining, on the body of said sliding portion (21), a pair of sliding surfaces

(21c) each adapted to engage a respective sliding track of said sliding guide (19); at least a through opening (19d) developing through the body of said sliding portion in correspondence with said engagement element (21b).

18. (original) A device as claimed in claim 16, characterised in that said support portion (22) has: a substantially plate-like element (22a); a substantially parallelepiped engagement element (22b) extending centrally from said plate-like element (22a) and defining thereon at least a pair of locking surfaces (22c) each adapted to engage a respective sliding track (19c) of said sliding guide (19), at the opposite side relative to the sliding portion (21), said engagement element (22b) of said support portion 822) being able to be inserted into the through opening (20) of said support rod (14), defining said sliding guide (19), and engaging the engagement element (21b) of said sliding portion ; at least a through opening (22d) extending between the plate-like element (22a) and the engagement element (22b).

19. (original) A device as claimed in claim 18, characterised in that said cutting element (15) is integrated in the support portion (22) of said cursor (18) through said plate-like element (22a) and said engagement element (22b), said cutting element (15) being positioned side by side with respect to the through opening (22d) of said support portion (22).

20. (new) A device as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that said cutting plate (4) is provided with a bearing surface (4a) facing said cutting means (13) and having at least a through opening (4b) that is coaxial relative to the grip portion (7), said bearing surface (4a) of said cutting plate (4) defining said housing portion (3) of said structure (2).